(c) whether Government have conducted any study for construction of some new National Highways;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government propose to construct new National Highways to meet the demand of the people?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To meet the increase in demand of traffic, the National Highways are widened keeping the availability of funds in view.

(c) and (d) There is no study conducted for additions to the National Highway System. However, some of the Committees set up by the Government have suggested some roads to be declared as National Highways.

(e) General decision for the declaration of new National Highways would be taken after the finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Extension of STD facilities to the towns with more than one lakh population

278. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the areas|towns with population of more than one lakh have not yet been extended S.T.D. facilities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the criteria for extension of STD facilities to the towns|cities at present;

(d) whether Government propose to cover almost all areas|towns with the population of more than one lakh with STD facilities; and

(e) if so, by what time this objective will be achieved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Only thirteen towns out of the total 214 with a population of more than one lakh have not been provided with STD facility.

(b) (i) Non-availability of equipment for automatisation.

(ii) Non-availability of transmission media.

(c) The following priorities have been set out for the provision of STD facility during the 8th Plan period.

(i) Provide STD facility to those DHQs which have spilled over from the 7th Plan period.

(ii) All sub divisional headquarters equivalent Tehsil|Block Development headquarters.

(iii) All telephone exchanges of capacity 500 lines and above as on 1-4-90.

(iv) All tourist centres, industrial growth centres, pilgrim centres.

(v) Other automatic exchanges subject to feasibility.

(d) The remaining 13 such stations are also covered for the provision of STD facility in the light of the norms mentioned at 'C' above.

(e) By the end of the 8th Plan period.

Censorship on video news magazines

279. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that video news magazines are censored by Government;

(b) if so. what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government discriminates between the video news magazines and other news magazines covering the same